

# BLACKFORD COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES OF

February 9, 2022

The Blackford County Council met at 6:00 p.m. on the first floor of the Blackford County Courthouse located at 110 W Washington Street, Hartford City, Indiana for the regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. The meeting was also available on Zoom.

**President Dan Borgenheimer called the Regular Meeting to order and Auditor Sharon Hartley called roll. Those members answering roll were Dan Borgenheimer, Jack Beckley, Karen Mealy (on Zoom), Ryan Goodspeed, Patrick Cale, Kyle Lechien and Fred Tobey. Also present were:** in person, Kelly Cale, Tyler Hunt, Jeff Sones, John Plummer, John Lancaster, John Bartlett, Mike Daniel, Jim Hefflin and Cheri Brown. **Attending on Zoom:** Karen Mealy, Mary Beal, Sue Kochanek, Warren Brown and Kathy Goodspeed.

**The minutes of the January 5, 2022 Regular Council meeting were approved as Presented on a motion by Ryan Goodspeed and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kyle Lechien.** The vote was 6/0. Fred Tobey was absent January 5.

## Committee Reports

Community Corrections – Kyle Lechien – no report

Solid Waste – Dan Borgenheimer – see below

Economic Development – Ryan Goodspeed – see Warren below

Blackford Development – Patrick Cale – no report

LEPC – Ryan Goodspeed – no report

Solid Waste District – Dan Borgenheimer has been asked about the **possibility of a recycling center** for the county. Local sites for paper recycling have closed partly due to the amount of garbage and trash being dumped in them.

**BCEDC Warren Brown:** (1) the broadband towers are up. He is working on getting fiber to them.

(2) **Elizabeth James with Charter/Spectrum** reported that her company received almost \$500,000 to get fiber to rural areas of Blackford County. Over 450 homes will have access to better internet and phone service. The project will begin in late summer 2023 and be finished in state wide 2025. (3) the Newberry building is moving toward completion and they are waiting on new plans to be reviewed by the state.

**Purdue Extensions Cheri Brown (1)** asked the board to increase the budget for the Program Assistant due to the hourly pay going from \$9.50 per hour to \$12.00 per hour for 2022. The hourly raise means fewer hours in the current budget. **Ryan Goodspeed moved to increase the Program Assistant line by \$1,750 to accommodate the 697 hours needed for the position. Fred Tobey 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 7/0.** (2) Brown explained the need to establish a Park and Recreation Board. The board will be all volunteers and would work with the cities on parks and trails. Jack Beckley moved to have attorney draft an Ordinance for review at the next meeting. Patrick Cale 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 7/0.

**Auditor Sharon Hartley** explained the need for an **Extra Help line in the Custodian's budget.** The line had not been needed for several years and was removed. There is enough money in the Assistant Custodian's line to transfer to Extra Help. **Jack Beckley made a motion to allow the Extra Help for the Custodian's department. Ryan Goodspeed 2<sup>nd</sup> and the vote was 7/0.** A transfer of funds will be presented at the next meeting.

**The hiring freeze Resolution 2020-R5 that was briefly discussed.** A revised Resolution will be sent to Attorney Aaron Henderson for review at the March meeting.

## Financial Reports for COUNTY GENERAL

Ending Cash Balance as of 1/3/2022	\$2,121,243.49
Total Expenditures for January 2022	\$1,302,400.05
Total Revenue for January 2022	\$ 248,886.58

**Additional Appropriations:** An error in the 2022 budget with the DLGF resulted in no state approved budget for the 1173 Highway Restricted fund. The budget was approved by the council during the 2022 budget sessions last year. The additional appropriation is needed to get state approval.

1173 MVH Restricted:

1173 530-1000.12 Foreman \$25,100  
1173 531-1000.20 Extra Help \$23,373  
1173 531-1000.22 Operators/Drivers \$220,626  
1173 533-1000.40 Employer FICA \$20,000  
1173 533-1000.41 PERF \$23,500  
1173 531-2000.32 Culverts \$75,000  
1173 531-2000.33 Bituminous \$109,488  
1173 531-2000.40 Wheel Tax Road Repairs \$175,000  
1173 531-2000.60 Stone \$61,886

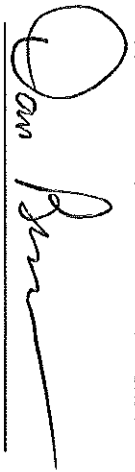
Patrick Cale moved to approve all additional appropriations and Fred Tobey 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 7/0.

Sheriff Jeff Sones reported one Sheriff's Deputy resigned and will be replaced by the Merit Board next week. Two Jailers resigned and one Dispatcher quit.

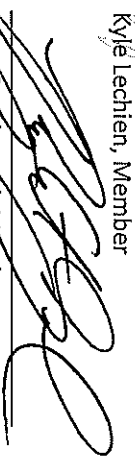
Highway Superintendent John Plummer introduced Mike Daniel as the new Foreman. (1) Plummer found a 2013 Gradeall Excavator in Ft Wayne for \$110,000. He has money in the budget for a dump truck but can't get one for two years due to the supply shortages. He would like to purchase the Gradeall with those funds. Patrick Cale made a motion to purchase the Excavator and Fred Tobey 2<sup>nd</sup>. The vote was 7/0. (2) SJCA has been working with Plummer on long range bridge repair plans. (3) The south shed has rotted posts that need repaired. The building was built in the 1960's - 1970's.

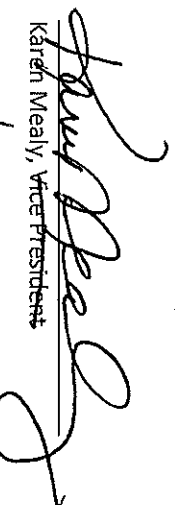
There being no further comment Dan Borgenheimer adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m. on a motion by Kyle Lechien, and 7/0 vote.

Approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

  
Dan Borgenheimer, President


  
Kyle Lechien, Member

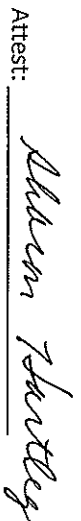
  
Ryan Godspeed, Member

  
Karen Mealy, Vice President

  
Jack Bedkey, Member

  
Fred Tobey, Member

  
Patrick Cale, Member

Attest:   
Auditor/Secretary